

posteriorly. A black eye-like irregular spot on the anterolateral end near the pedicel. Spinnerets subequal in length. Dorsum has two hump-like prominences on the anterior and posterior end, with the middle being depressed, resembling an ant's abdomen. Ventral side pale reddish brown.

Materials examined: 2 ♀ ♀, location: Ernakulam 3.xii.2000, Coll: Samson Davis; 2 ♀ ♀, location: Cochin 2.xi.2000, Coll: Sunil Jose, K.; 2 ♂ ♂, location: Paravur, Ernakulam 15.xii.2000, Coll: Sudhikumar, A.V.

Natural History: Collected from leaves of *Mangifera indica* in the same habitats as that of *Oecophylla smaragdina* (Fabr.)

Distribution: INDIA: Ernakulam (Kerala State), Pune (Maharashtra); Burma (=Myanmar); Malaysia; Holland; Africa.

Remarks: According to Tikader, an eye-like spot is present on the posterolateral end of the abdomen in male, whereas this is absent in our specimens. Similarly, in the palp the embolus is coiled two and half times, whereas it was only

one and half times according to Tikader. The black irregular spot present on the anterolateral end of the abdomen in both sexes in our specimen is also absent in Tikader's description. Since the specimens are similar to Tikader's specimen in all other characters, we believe this difference may be a geographical variation or due to an omission in description.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank the Principal, Sacred Heart College Thevara, Rev. Fr. George Koyikara C.M.I. for providing facilities.

February 7, 2001

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MATHEW, A.P. (1954): Observations of habits of two spider mimics of the Red Ant *Oecophylla smaragdina* (Fabr.). *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 52: 249-263.

41. RARE SIGHTING OF OGRE-FACED SPIDER *DINOPIS GOALPARAENSIS*, ARANEAE: DINOPIDAE, IN THE BANANA AGRO-ECOSYSTEM OF VADODARA, GUJARAT

(With two text-figures)

Dinopis is commonly known as the ogre-faced spider. Review of literature shows that this spider is poorly known from India. There is a single report of the occurrence of *Dinopis goalparaensis* by Tikader and Malhotra (1978) from Jamduar, District Goalpara, Assam. This note records the occurrence of *Dinopis goalparaensis* from Gujarat for the first time.

To study spider diversity in a banana agro-ecosystem an extensive survey was carried out in different banana fields situated in a 20 km radius of Vadodara city. Spiders were hand picked

and preserved in 70% alcohol. The ogre-faced spider, attached to dry leaves of a banana plant, was collected from its web. These spiders have a flattened carapace, elongated abdomen and long slender legs. Because of these characters this spider superficially resembles the juvenile of *Eucta* sp. (Family: Tetragnathidae), however, it is easily differentiated from *Eucta* sp. by the following characters:

1. Posterior median eyes larger than the rest, black in colour, anterior median eyes smallest and anterior laterals present on

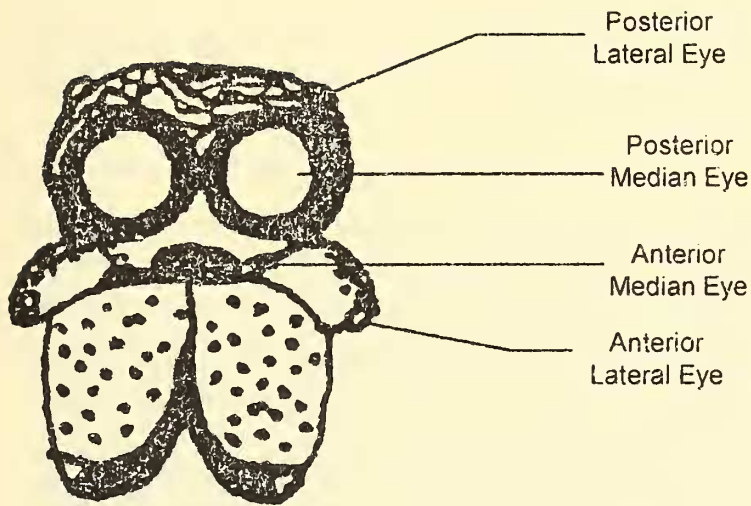


Fig. 1: Front view of face, showing arrangement of eyes

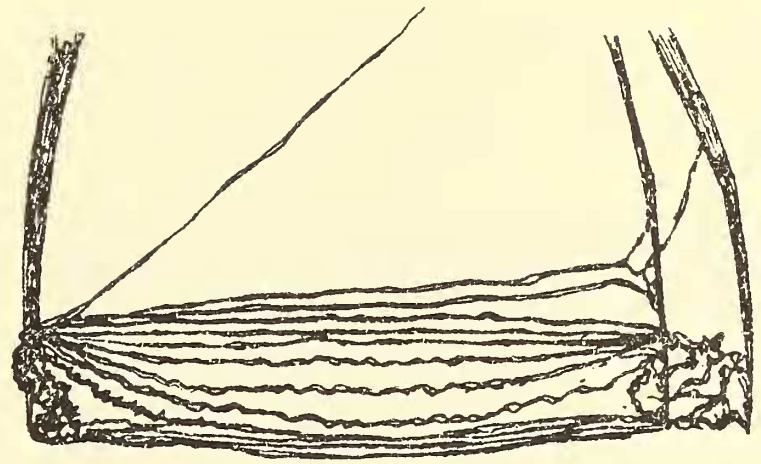


Fig. 2: Prey capture web held between the first two pairs of legs

tubercles which are pointing downwards (Fig. 1). In *Eucta* sp. eyes are smaller and equal in size.

2. Subadult female measured about 4.4 mm in total length, carapace 1.2 mm long and 1.0 mm wide, abdomen 3.2 mm long and 0.8 mm wide. However, adult female measures about 13.3 mm in total length (Tikader and Malhotra 1978), nearly equal to that of *Eucta* sp.
3. Abdomen long but not pointed at the posterior end (unlike *Eucta* sp.).
4. Legs long but very delicate as compared to *Eucta* sp.

Dinopis goalparaensis rests in its web, stretching its legs like *Eucta* sp., anterior legs extended forward and posterior legs extended backward.

It is a nocturnal weaver and constructs two types of webs: Orb web and Actual Prey capture web (Fig. 2)

The Orb web of *Dinopis* is similar to that of other orb weavers and it is not basically used for catching prey but for resting. The prey capture web is rectangular (like a tennis court net) and is held between the front legs by the spider, it consists of sticky silk threads.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank Dr. B.K. Biswas, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, for confirming the identity of the species and providing relevant literature.

July 3, 2001

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REFERENCE

TIKADER, B.K. & M.S. MALHOTRA (1978): A new record of rare spider of the Family Dinopidae from India with description of a new species. *Proc. Indian Acad. Sci.* 87B(6): 157-159.

42. OBSERVATIONS ON *BAUHINIA MALABARICA* ROXB, LEGUMINOSAE: CAESALPINIOIDEAE, SHAPE OF CALYX IS NOT CORRELATED WITH SEXUAL NATURE OF FLOWERS

Roxburgh while commenting on *Bauhinia malabarica* Roxb. (in Carey ed., Fl. Ind. 2: 321.

1832) said, "This very distinct species is remarkable for the regularity of its five-parted